

AMERICAN CITIZENS SERVICES NEWSLETTER

The U.S. Embassy is transmitting the following monthly newsletter via its warden system as a public service to U.S. citizens in Mongolia. Please feel free to disseminate this message to U.S. citizens in your organizations or to other Americans you know.



9/11 Memorial Ceremony

The U.S. Embassy marked the 11th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks with a moment of silence at the Embassy and a memorial ceremony held at the Star Community Center on September 11, 2012.

Ambassador Piper Campbell opened the memorial ceremony by offering a few brief remarks. Ambassador Campbell spoke



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of her own experience being in New York City on 9/11 and the tremendous outpouring of support that followed, including from Mongolia. Drawing lessons from the experience, the Ambassador highlighted the importance of reaching across cultures and striving daily to be our very best selves. A moment of silence then followed. Those in attendance could also write their thoughts in a memorial book to be displayed during each subsequent 9/11 memorial ceremony.

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Welcome to the New Consul

Those in attendance included employees of the U.S. Embassy and Americans resident in Mongolia.

The Consular Section would like to welcome our new Consul, Daniela Zadrozny, who arrived in Mongolia in mid-August. Daniela joined the Foreign Service in 2004 and has served in Shenyang, Berlin, Taipei and Shanghai before her current assignment to Ulaanbaatar. Besides Mongolian, Daniela speaks German and Chinese. Daniela is happy to be back in Mongolia, where she worked as a teacher 20 years ago.

Message for U.S. Citizens on Completing and Returning Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots already delivered to overseas voters.

Every U.S. citizen who requested an absentee ballot and selected the fax or email delivery option should have it by now. Please vote and take steps to return your voted ballot promptly so your vote will count. See instructions below.

Returning your ballot by mail. Place your voted ballot in a U.S. postage-paid envelope containing the address of your local election officials. Drop it off at the Embassy, and we'll send it back home for you without the need to pay international postage. If you can't visit the Embassy in person, ask a friend or colleague to drop it off for you. If it's easier for you to use Mongolia's postal system, be sure to affix sufficient international postage, and allow sufficient time for international mail delivery. If time is tight, you may want to use a private courier service (e.g., FedEx, UPS, or DHL) to meet your state's ballot receipt deadline.

Returning your ballot by email, fax, or upload. Some states allow these options, but may also require you to still mail in the signed paper ballot. Learn more at the Federal Voting Assistance Program's website at www.FVAP.gov.

Haven't received your ballot yet? Use the emergency write-in ballot. U.S. citizens who requested an absentee ballot but haven't received it should go to www.FVAP.gov to complete a Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot. Follow the above guidance for returning your ballot. If you later receive your regular absentee ballot, vote and return it immediately. Local election officials will count just one ballot per voter, and will use the regular ballot if received by your state's ballot receipt deadline.

Forgot to register or request an absentee ballot? Act immediately! There are three options.

Option #1: Register and request a ballot today using the federal post card application at www.FVAP.gov. Select the electronic ballot delivery option, include your email address (and fax number) and send it to local election officials in your state. Almost every state lets you submit it by email or fax. Once your application is processed they will send you your ballot via fax or email depending on your state. Vote as soon as you receive the blank ballot. Registration deadlines vary and some are as early as October 7, so check your state's requirements carefully.

Option#2: Follow the instructions in Option #1, but also complete and send in a Federal Write-in Ballot at the same time to make sure your vote is counted. This option may be the best one for first-time voters if your state requires you to submit your Federal Post Card Application by mail. Vote and

submit your regular absentee ballot if/when it arrives. Local election officials will count just one ballot per voter, and will use the regular ballot if it's received by the ballot receipt deadline.

Option #3: Voters from the following states can use the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot as a combined voter registration form, absentee ballot request, and absentee ballot: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, and Washington. (**NOTE:** This form must reach your local election officials by your state's absentee ballot request deadline or voter registration deadline, whichever is first.)

Returning your Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot by mail. Follow the guidance above for returning your ballot by mail.

Returning your Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot by email or fax. The following states allow voters to email or fax their signed, voted Federal Write-in Absentee Ballots back to local election officials: Arizona, California (fax only), Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Utah, Washington, and West Virginia. (**NOTE:** see instructions at www.FVAP.gov for faxing or emailing your voted ballot.)

Need help? You can get in-person assistance from our Embassy Voting Assistance Officers during American Citizen Service (ACS) hours at the Embassy. ACS hours are held every Monday and Thursday afternoon from 1 - 3 pm. Please make sure that it is not a U.S. or Mongolian holiday as the Embassy will be closed. Voters can get assistance during ACS hours and/or drop off forms for return to the U.S. via the diplomatic pouch. The American Embassy is located just off of Big Ring Road in the 11th Micro-district, next to the Laotian Embassy.

Have Questions? Please contact Ulaanbaatar's Voting Assistance Officer at 329-095 ext. 4419, or at VoteUlaanbaatar@state.gov.

Confirm your registration and ballot delivery online. Learn more at the Federal Voting Assistance Program's (FVAP) website at www.FVAP.gov.

GREEN CARD LOTTERY FOR US VISA OPENS OCTOBER 2, 2012

The U.S. Department of State started accepting applications for the 2014 Diversity Immigrant (Green Card) Lottery beginning at noon **October 2, 2012 Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)**, and ending at noon EDT on **November 3, 2012**. DV lottery entrants are strongly encouraged to apply early. No entries will be accepted after noon EST on November 3, 2012.

Winners are selected randomly, and **there is no fee to enter the lottery**. Winners are eligible to apply for a diversity visa which can be used to enter the U. S. and become a legal permanent resident.

For more information on the diversity visa program, please visit www.dvlottery.state.gov, the dedicated webpage by the Department of State.

Entries to the DV lottery must be submitted online at www.dvlottery.state.gov. Lottery winners will **not be**

notified by e-mail or regular mail. Starting May 1, 2013, entrants may enter their DV-2014 entry confirmation number into the Entrant Status Check available at www.dvlottery.state.gov to find out whether their entry was selected or not. Selectees who respond to the notification instructions on Entrant Status Check will receive e-mail communications alerting them that a visa appointment has been scheduled. DV-2014 data will be available through Entrant Status Check until June 30, 2014.

Applicants may prepare and submit their own entries or have someone submit the entry for them. Regardless of whether an entry is submitted by the individual directly or assistance is provided by an attorney, friend, relative, etc., **only one entry may be submitted in the name of each individual**.

Applicants are reminded that they are responsible for all information submitted and that the information must be (continued on next page)

A Reminder on Personal Security Habits

The U.S. Embassy would like to remind American citizens in Ulaanbaatar of the need to practice good personal security habits. Steps to increase your personal security and prevent yourself from becoming a target of crime or other attacks include:

- checking the interior and exterior of your vehicle prior to getting in and look for things that are irregular or abnormal;
- maintaining a low personal profile by not doing anything that draws attention to yourself;
- making yourself a hard target by varying your routes and times to and from work and by not having a set day for shopping, errands and personal needs;
- being alert to your surroundings;
- making colleagues and family aware of your daily plans and letting them know how to reach you;
- avoid getting boxed-in. Keep a safe distance from the car in front of you and always leave enough distance to make a turn without having to back up the car;
- if you suspect surveillance while driving, try to get a description of the vehicle and occupant(s) without stopping or placing yourself in danger. Never drive home; drive to the nearest safe haven and report the incident immediately to the RSO.
- do not touch or open suspicious packages; and
- never give out your personal information such as family member and household staff names, addresses and telephone numbers in an open setting.

Be aware that crime and other security risks can occur at any time in any place. Such acts are seldom based on chance. Sometimes, they are meticulously planned and executed within a tight schedule against lightly defended or unprotected targets. Both target selection and attack planning are based on surveillance. You can significantly improve your chances of avoiding being a victim of an incident if you practice three basic rules:

- Keep a Low Profile
- Be Unpredictable
- Remain Vigilant

Courtesy Regional Security Officer



GREEN CARD LOTTERY FOR US VISA OPENS (cont'd)

correct and complete. **Incomplete or incorrect applications will be void and will prevent the applicant from obtaining a visa even if his or her entry is chosen in the lottery.**

The DV Lottery is free and paying a broker will not improve an entry's chances of selection. Indeed, the use of an outside broker for help other than translation and data entry may result in the entrant's lifetime ban on entry into the United States.

For more information, please refer to the Embassy's website at:

<http://mongolia.usembassy.gov/greencard/>

Embassy Contact Information

American Citizen Services
Embassy of the United States
11th Micro District
Big Ring Road
Ulaanbaatar 13, Mongolia
Tel: 976-11329-095
Fax: 976-11323-788
After-hours
or emergency number: 9911-4168
E-mail: UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov
- or -
American Embassy Ulaanbaatar
4410 Ulaanbaatar Place
Washington, DC, 20521-4410

Upcoming Holidays

October 8 — Columbus Day



Travel Warnings and Alerts

[Sudan](#) 09/15/2012
[Tunisia](#) 09/15/2012
[Algeria](#) 09/13/2012
[Libya](#) 09/12/2012
[Korea, Democratic People's Republic of](#) 09/11/2012
[Republic of South Sudan](#) 09/10/2012
[Guinea](#) 09/07/2012
[Mali](#) 08/29/2012
[Syria](#) 08/28/2012
[Pakistan](#) 08/27/2012
[Israel, the West Bank and Gaza](#) 08/10/2012
[Iraq](#) 08/09/2012
[Congo, Democratic Republic of the](#) 08/02/2012

For additional information about these travel warnings and alerts, please go to this site:

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html

